

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 1, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1577

Introduced by ~~Committee on Governmental Organization (Price (Chair), Cook, Coto, Evans, Galgiani, Hall, Hill, Jeffries, Lieu, Mendoza, Portantino, Silva, Torres, Torrico, and Tran)~~ Assembly Member Coto

March 23, 2009

~~An act to amend Section 19805 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to gambling. An act to amend Section 4369.2 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to problem gambling.~~

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1577, as amended, ~~Committee on Governmental Organization Coto. Gambling: licenses. Problem and pathological gambling.~~

Existing law establishes the Office of Problem and Pathological Gambling within the State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, and sets forth its duties relating to prevention and control of problem and pathological gambling, as defined.

This bill would require the prevention program developed by the office to include development of education and awareness programs that specifically target geographically diverse multicultural populations, and would require the office to develop a grant program for education, outreach, and prevention, giving preferences to grant applications that meet prescribed conditions.

~~The Gambling Control Act provides for the licensure of certain individuals and establishments involved in various gambling activities, and for the regulation of those activities, by the California Gambling~~

~~Control Commission. Under existing law, the commission issues and regulates certain licenses, including gambling licenses and key employee licenses, as defined. The act defines “license” for purposes of these provisions as a gambling license or key employee license.~~

~~This bill would add to the above definition of “license” any other license issued by the commission pursuant to the Gambling Control Act or a regulation adopted pursuant to that act.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 4369.2 of the Welfare and Institutions
2 Code is amended to read:
3 4369.2. (a) The office shall develop a problem gambling
4 prevention program, which shall be the first priority for funding
5 appropriated to this office. The prevention program shall be based
6 upon the allocation priorities established by the department and
7 subject to funding being appropriated for the purpose of this
8 subdivision, and shall consist of all of the following:
9 (1) A toll-free telephone service for immediate crisis
10 management and containment with subsequent referral of problem
11 and pathological gamblers to health providers who can provide
12 treatment for gambling related problems and to self-help groups.
13 (2) Public awareness campaigns that focus on prevention and
14 education among the general public including, for example,
15 dissemination of youth oriented preventive literature, educational
16 experiences, and public service announcements in the media.
17 (3) *Development of problem gambling education and awareness*
18 *programs that specifically target geographically diverse*
19 *multicultural populations.*
20 (3)
21 (4) Empirically driven research programs focusing on
22 epidemiology/prevalence, etiology/causation, and best practices
23 in prevention and treatment.
24 (4)
25 (5) Training of health care professionals and educators, and
26 training for law enforcement agencies and nonprofit organizations
27 in the identification of problem gambling behavior and knowledge
28 of referral services and treatment programs.

1 ~~(5)~~

2 (6) Training of gambling industry personnel in identifying
3 customers at risk for problem and pathological gambling and
4 knowledge of referral and treatment services.

5 (b) The office shall develop a program to support treatment
6 services for California residents with problem and pathological
7 gambling issues. The program shall be based upon the allocation
8 priorities established by the department and subject to funding
9 being appropriated for the purposes of this subdivision. These
10 priorities shall also be based on the best available existing state
11 programs as well as on continuing research into best practices and
12 on the needs of California. The treatment program shall consist of
13 all of the following components:

14 (1) Treatment services for problem and pathological gamblers
15 and directly involved family members. These treatment services
16 will be created through partnerships with established health
17 facilities that can provide treatment for gambling related problems,
18 substance abuse facilities, and providers. State funded treatment
19 may include, but is not limited to, the following: self-administered,
20 home-based educational programs; outpatient treatment; residential
21 treatment; and inpatient treatment when medically necessary.

22 (2) A funding allocation methodology that ensures treatment
23 services are delivered efficiently and effectively to areas of the
24 state most in need.

25 (3) Appropriate review and monitoring of treatment programs
26 by the director of the office or a designated institution, including
27 grant oversight and monitoring, standards for treatment, and
28 outcome monitoring.

29 (4) Treatment efforts shall provide services that are relevant to
30 the needs of a diverse multicultural population with attention to
31 groups with unique needs, including female gamblers, underserved
32 ethnic groups, the elderly, and the physically challenged.

33 (c) *The office may develop a grant program for education,*
34 *outreach, and prevention. In establishing the grant program, the*
35 *office may give preference to grant applications that do any of the*
36 *following:*

37 (1) *Provide matching funds to coordinate efforts and maximize*
38 *the effectiveness of limited funds to raise awareness and change*
39 *the behavior of at-risk populations.*

40 (2) *Target geographically diverse multicultural populations.*

1 (3) *Educate youth.*

2 ~~(e)~~

3 (d) The office shall make information available as requested by
4 the Governor and the Legislature with respect to the comprehensive
5 program.

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**All matter omitted in this version of the bill
appears in the bill as introduced in the
Assembly March 23, 2009 (JR11)**